

Remarks

Applicant hereby affirms the election without traverse to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 1-14. Claims 15- 20 are cancelled. Claims 21 and 22 are added.

Applicant respectfully notes with appreciation the indication of allowance of Claim 11 if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 USC 112 and to include the limitations of the base claim.

The formal drawings will be submitted under separate cover.

The specification and claims have been amended in accord with the Examiner's comments to remove the objections and rejection under 35 USC 112.

Claims 1-9, and 13-14, stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Boudah. Claims 1-4, 8, 9, 10, and 12, stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Weston. Applicant has amended Claim 1 to include reference to a particular type of connector found only within a configuration in accord with Applicant's invention. Applicant's invention is useful for making compartments within the truck bed. The joint useful for this purpose has four plugs for horizontal orientation to connect with up to four support legs and at least one vertically oriented plug. Each of the plugs extend from a common intersection. Boudah does not show such a connection. The closest joint would be Boudah joint 14 for a corner joint. As Boudah shows a rack for holding items about the truck bed there would be no advantage to having a connector for connecting to four horizontal members and at least one vertical member. Weston does not show such a connector either and such a joint would not be useful for Weston as Weston shows a similar



purpose carrying frame above the truck bed as Boudah. The closest joint in Weston is shown in FIG. 7 item 34. This joint has five plugs but they do not each extend from and intersect with the same central intersection as required by the amended claim language. Nor do the four plugs for horizontal orientation disclose form a cross as they extend from the common central intersection.

Claim 8 is also rewritten to overcome the rejection under Boudah and Weston. The language of rewritten claim 8 also relates to configurations of Applicants invention for providing compartments within the bed. More specifically, claim 8 first references first and second tubular support members mountable on the right side wall and left side wall of the truck bed. Both Boudah and Weston have these items. However, a third support member, for vertical orientation, for engagement with the floor of the vehicle bed is described as being located between the first and second tubular support members on the left and right side walls, respectively. Neither Boudah nor Weston show such a tubular support member. Moreover such an element would interfere with the bed as is contrary to the purpose of the overhead rack of both Boudah and Weston. Moreover, a particular type of connector is also described for securing with the third support member to the structure which further limits the prior art. Since Boudah and Weston do not have the third support element, they would not have the connector for attachment to it.

Claims 10 and 12, that describe particular connectors are also rewritten to avoid Boudah and Weston.

Claim 21 is similar to Claim 8 except the third support member between the first and second support members is for horizontal orientation parallel to the left side and right side

walls of the vehicle bed. Neither Boudah nor Weston show this. As well a connector is attached which neither Boudah nor Weston show.

In light of the amendments and remarks to explain the amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



Kenneth L. Nash  
Reg. No. 34,399

Date: 1/8/2000  
Law Office of Kenneth L. Nash  
P.O. Box 680106  
Houston, TX 7728-0106  
Tel: (281) 583-1024  
Fax: (281) 397-6929

#### CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence and its attachments are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Box Non-Fee Amendment, Washington, D.C. 20231 on January 8, 2000 by Kenneth L. Nash:

By: Kenneth L. Nash

